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### An Introduction as to Why John McCain Refused to Whore Himself to Get Your Vote

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The attempt to engage young voters in politics has been on every politician, reporter, and column writer's agenda since the founding of the United States, and in David Foster Wallace's "Up, Simba" this hope holds true. In this essay the 2000 presidential election is called into discussion as Wallace trudges through the complexities of a week on the trail following Republican Senator of Arizona John McCain. Wallace refers to himself as "not a political journalist" and strives to share his experience from neither a Republican or Democratic perspective, but rather give a factual account that readers of the Rolling Stone would find beneficial in deciphering the election for themselves. As much as this essay is a self-reflection on the journey of a writer, it is also an invitation for young Americans to approach politics and formulate opinions through the derivation between facts and appeals presented by mixed media.

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Wallace eases readers into the idea that is paramount to this essay; young people were the backbone in Senator McCain's campaign and continue to be the missing link politicians vie for to achieve the ultimate success of presidency. By using language that appeals to younger audiences paired with phrases such as "college students were waiting to greet him, cheering and waving signs and dancing and holding a weird kind of GOP rave" (Wallace 161), readers find comfort in knowing that other young people found representation in McCain, so maybe they could too. This quote gives being politically active a youthful glow, following politics is the new fad, an

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unmissable event that heightens one's social standing and exudes intelligence. Wallace's use of comical language makes the Vietnam war vet seem relatable and edgy, someone "Who wants your vote but won't whore himself to get it" (Wallace 160), someone that finally seems to hold young America's values close.

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Not only is Wallace's use of language appealing to young voters, but his claim to the individual identities of millennials in the early 2000's is what ultimately paints McCain in a positive light. Millennials often get the reputation of being self-serving and quick to dismiss anyone or anything that will not put their desires first, which ironically, mirrors most politicians' agendas as well. Wallace tries to skew this misconception by saying that John McCain's "cause greater than self-interest" is different because he "says things that are manifestly true but which no other candidate will say" (Wallace 163). By offering that McCain's main goal is to serve his voters, the readers of this article grow increasingly confident that perhaps a politician will finally display the change they wish to see. Even the factor of McCain's campaign that seems untouchable to youth, McCain's past as a POW in a Vietnamese prison, is spun in a way that allows readers to interpret McCain as nothing less than a martyr with tendencies to be overtly loyal without a hint of self-sufficiency.

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Even though David Foster Wallace attempts to convince readers that this essay's purpose is not intended to swing voters in one way or another, only McCain's side of the campaign is highlighted so readers should be cautious in discerning how pertinent this information can be when it comes to the election. This essay was written to spark interest specifically in the youngest generation of voters, to engage them in the craft of political science and to identify a candidate that speaks to their requests. The rhetoric in this essay may seem convincing, but it is imperative that readers recognize that Wallace intends to say what they are wanting to hear, not

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to give multiple perspectives on other candidates. That being said, this article should not be the exclusive source on Senator McCain's candidacy for voters but rather, it serves as a trendy introduction for those contemplating involvement in politics.

This is a good draft. This paper does a fair job of exploring some of the ways Wallace talks about John McCain as an alternative to politics-as-usual, especially insofar as Wallace suggests that McCain is unique in the way he appeals to young voters who are less interested in politics. Within the context of that explanation, it might be worthwhile to explain more to readers why young voters are so uninterested, according to Wallace, and what it is about McCain that Wallace finds interesting. This distinction might continue to raise questions for further exploration, such as whether "Up, Simba" is an essay that is primarily focused on getting readers to like (or not like) McCain, or it's an essay that is interested in exploring some larger questions about politics that go beyond just one candidate or another. What do you find interesting about the way that Wallace approaches this subject and asks his readers to think about it? And, as you continue to explore what Wallace is doing here, what do you want your own readers to be thinking about more deeply when it comes to these questions? Why is that perspective important?

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